Blues and Rock Techniques for Hammond Organ

taught by

David Bennett Cohen

with Bobby Kyle (guitar), Terry Wetmore (drums), Everett Boyd (bass)

82-minute Video

Learn to get the thrilling organ sounds that have enhanced blues, jazz, gospel and rock and roll throughout the history of popular music. David Cohen shows you how to create those sounds, and how to play the licks and grooves that have made this instrument world famous.

David starts by detailing the parts of the Hammond B-3, the most popular model for this kind of music. (If you don't have a Hammond B-3, other organ models will work as well.) For those just starting out, he shows how the presets, drawbars, percussion tablets, vibrato switch, volume pedal and other devices help create the unique effects for which the organ is known. Then it's into the music!

Backed by a top New York blues band, David teaches riffs, blues scales, bass lines, chord changes and turnarounds, along with the specific musical tricks that give the Hammond organ its unique place in the music world. Taking five distinct pieces—fast and medium tempo shuffles, two funk grooves and the all-important slow blues—David teaches how to improvise solos, use licks and fills, play a variety of bass lines, and integrate the organ's exciting sound into a rockin' blues band.

David Bennett Cohen has been a professional musician for over 30 years. He is best known for his innovative piano and organ playing as an original member of the classic rock band, Country Joe and the Fish. He has played with a variety of musical acts over the years, including The Blues Project, Mick Taylor, The Luther Tucker Blues Band, Elvin Bishop, Melvin Van Peebles, Happy and Artie Traum, Eric Andersen, Tim Hardin, Norton Buffalo, Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Winter, Huey Lewis, Michael Bloomfield, Bob Wier and many others.

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Homespun® Video

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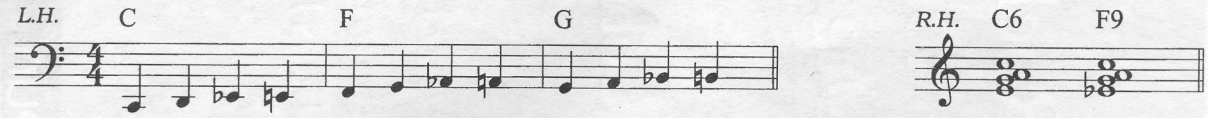
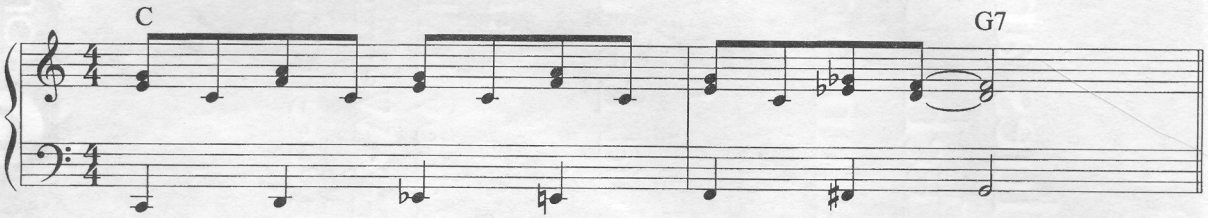
Shuffle in the Key of C

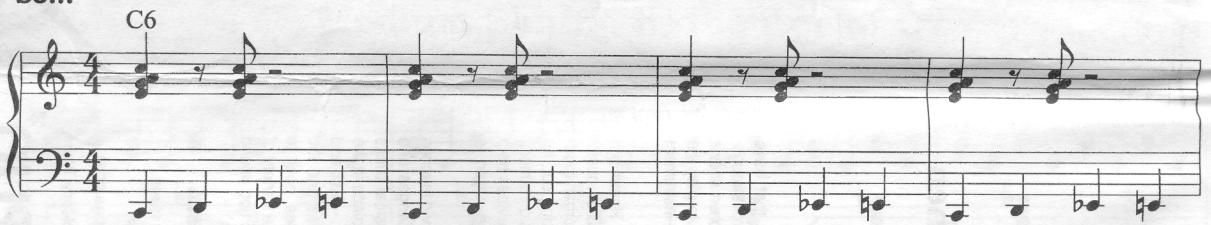
Horn chops

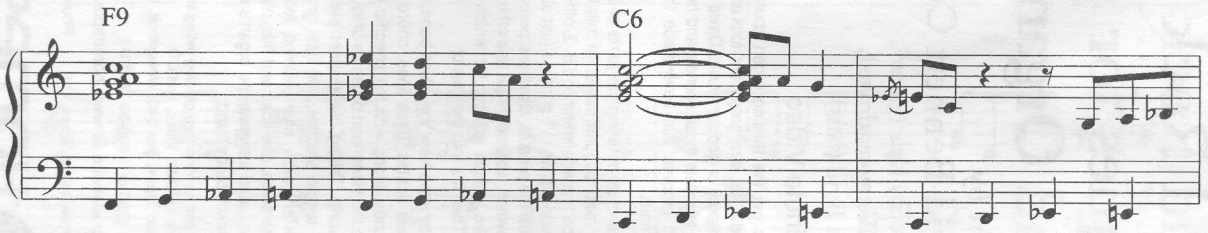


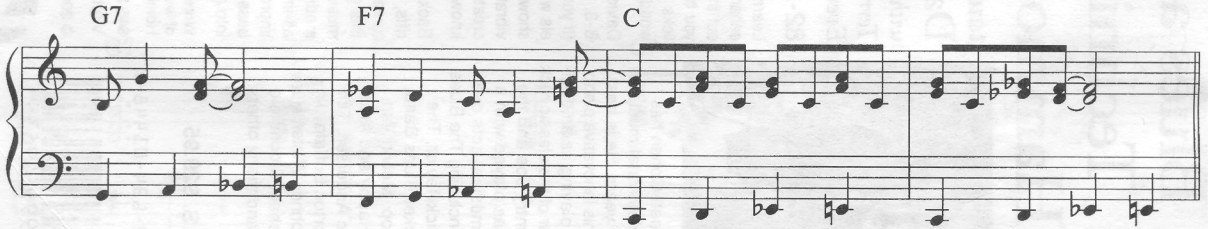
For the V chord

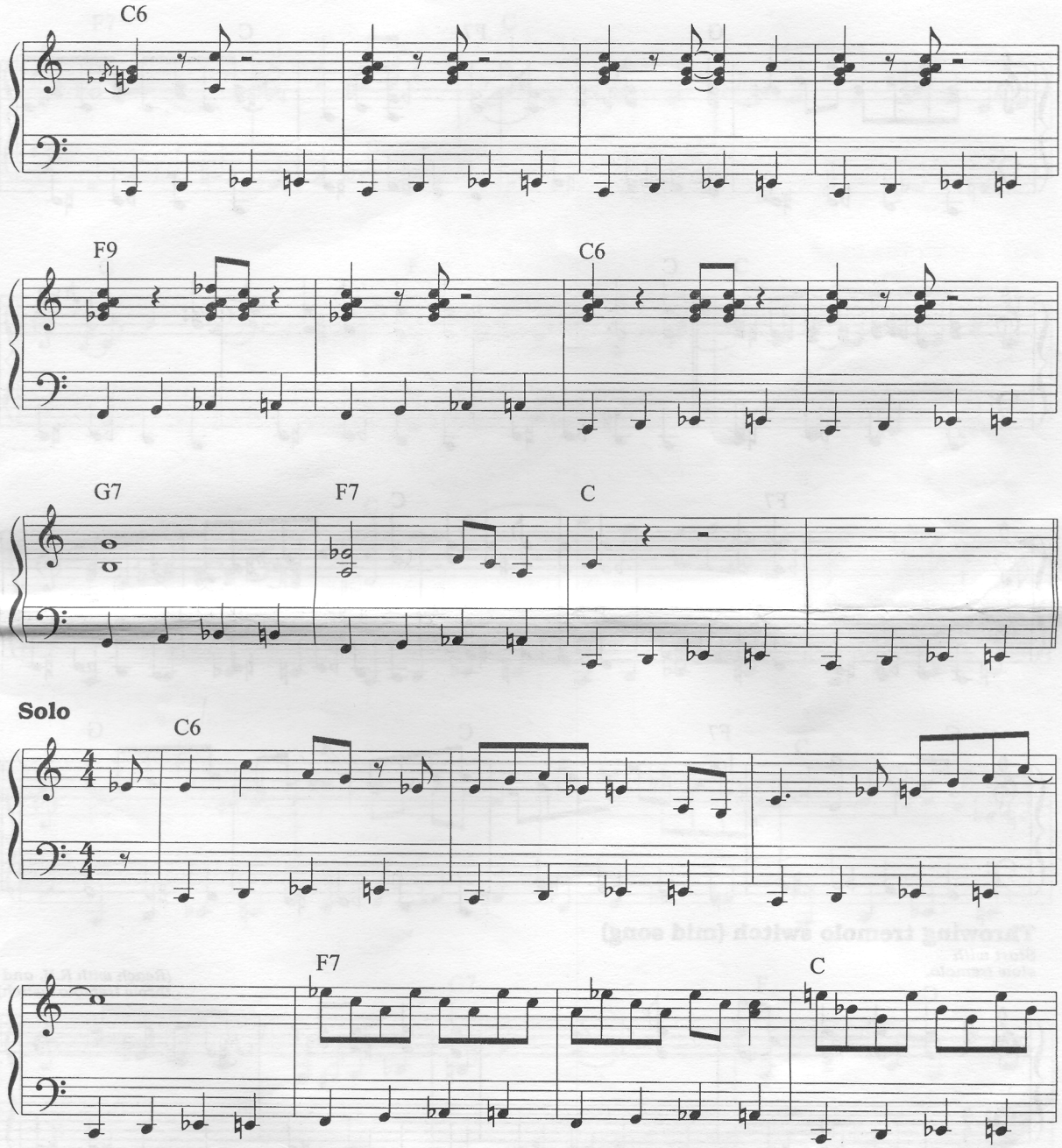


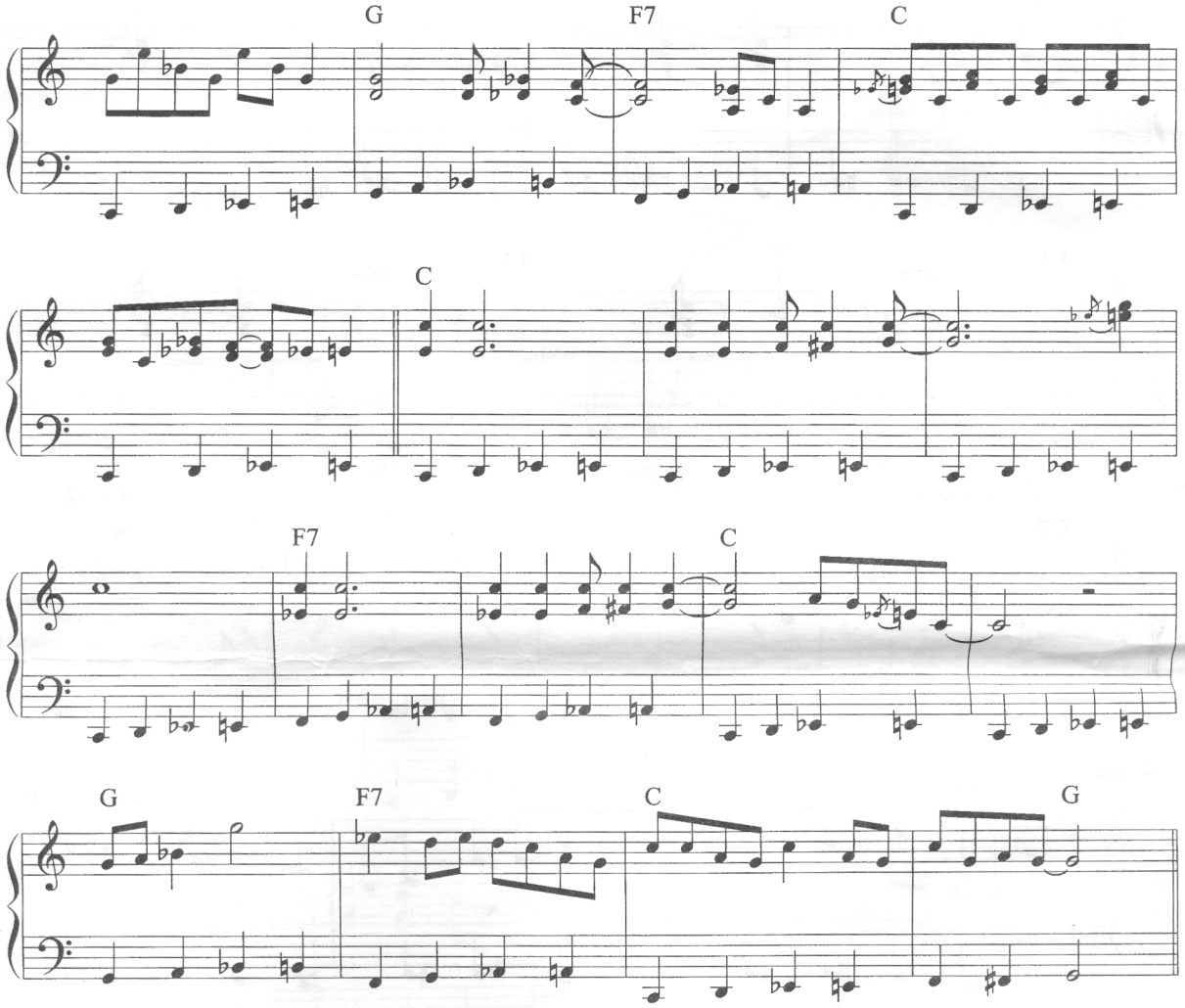
So...







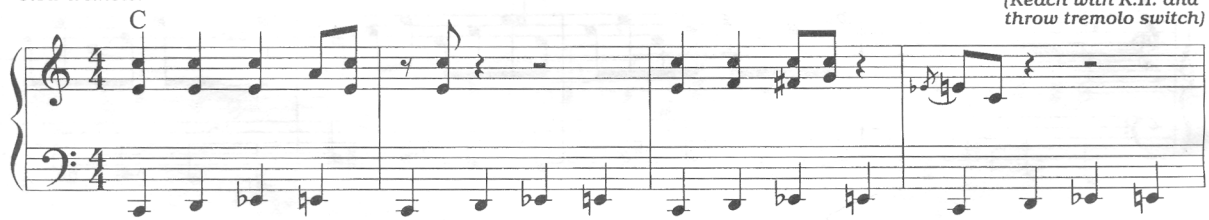

C6
F9
C6
G7
F7
C
Solo
C6
F7
C

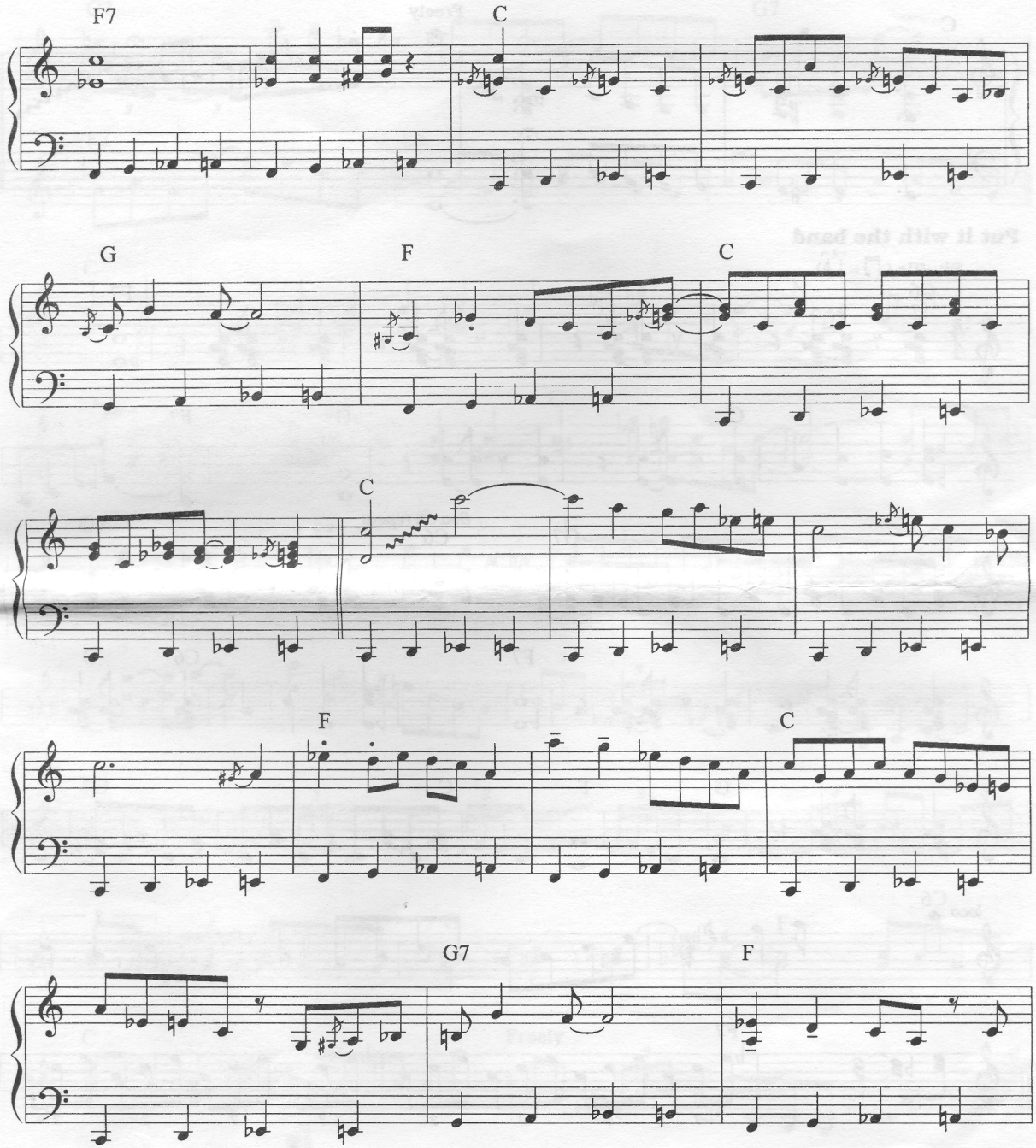


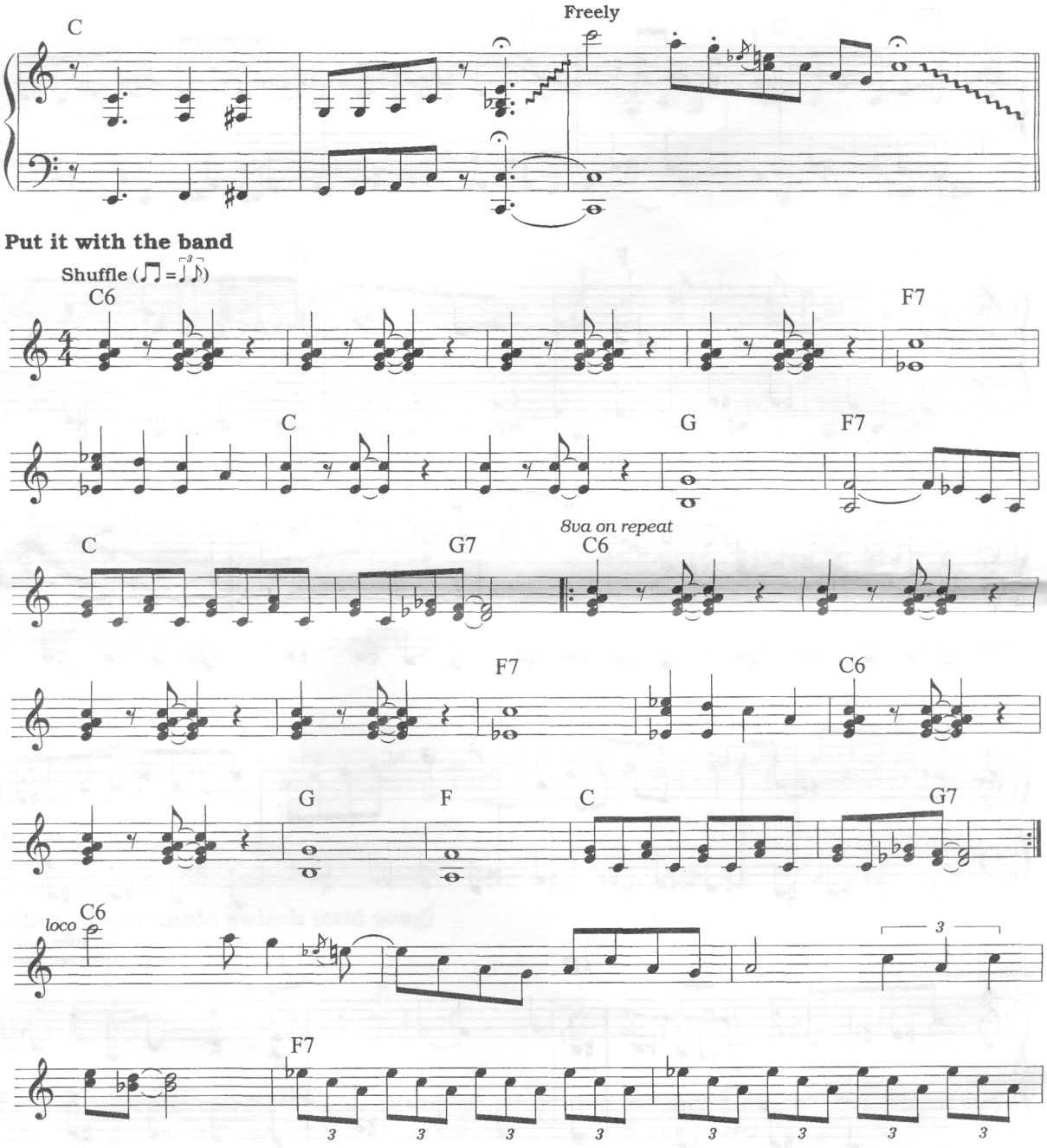
Throwing tremolo switch (mid song)

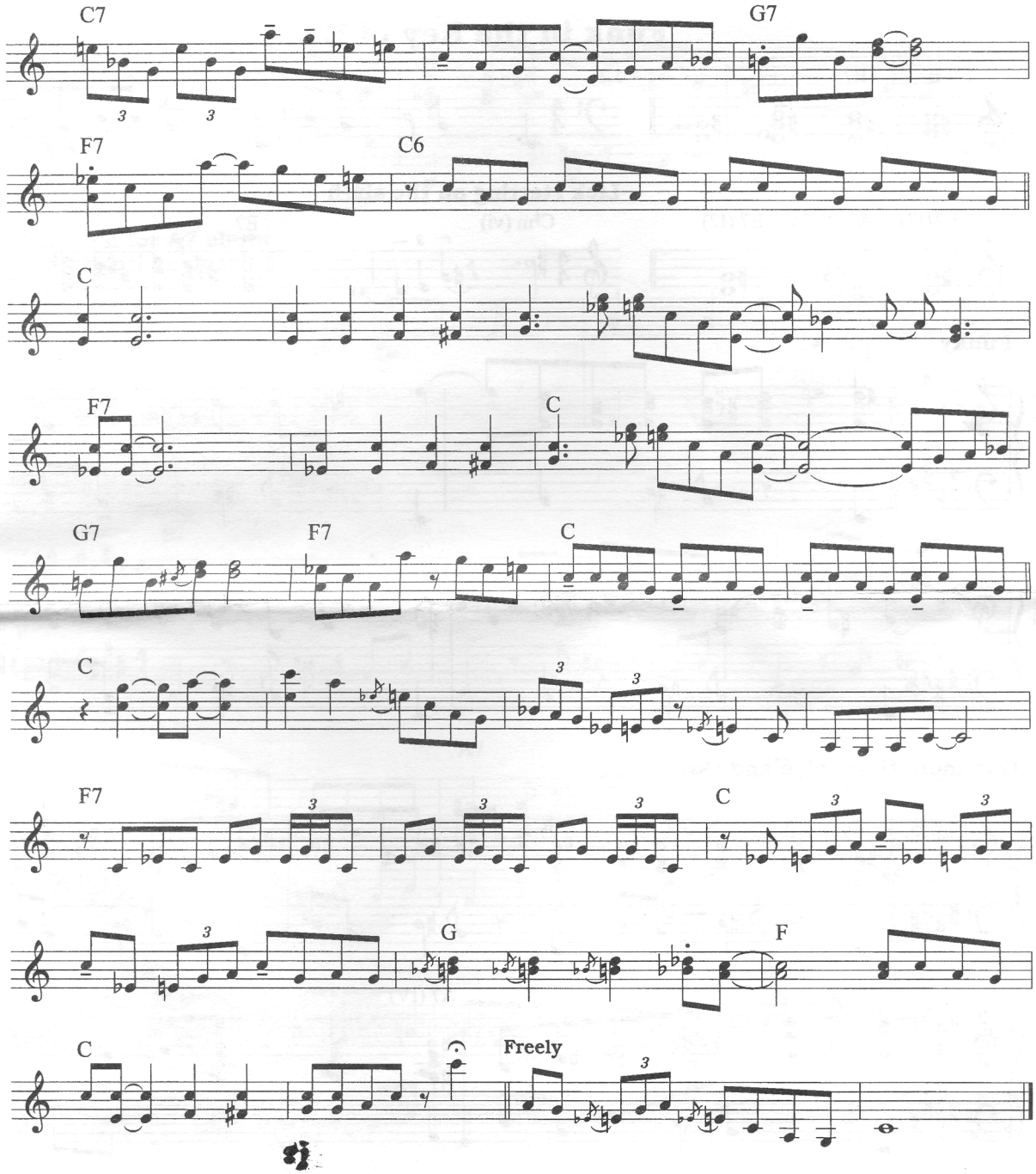
Start with slow tremolo.

(Reach with R.H. and throw tremolo switch)

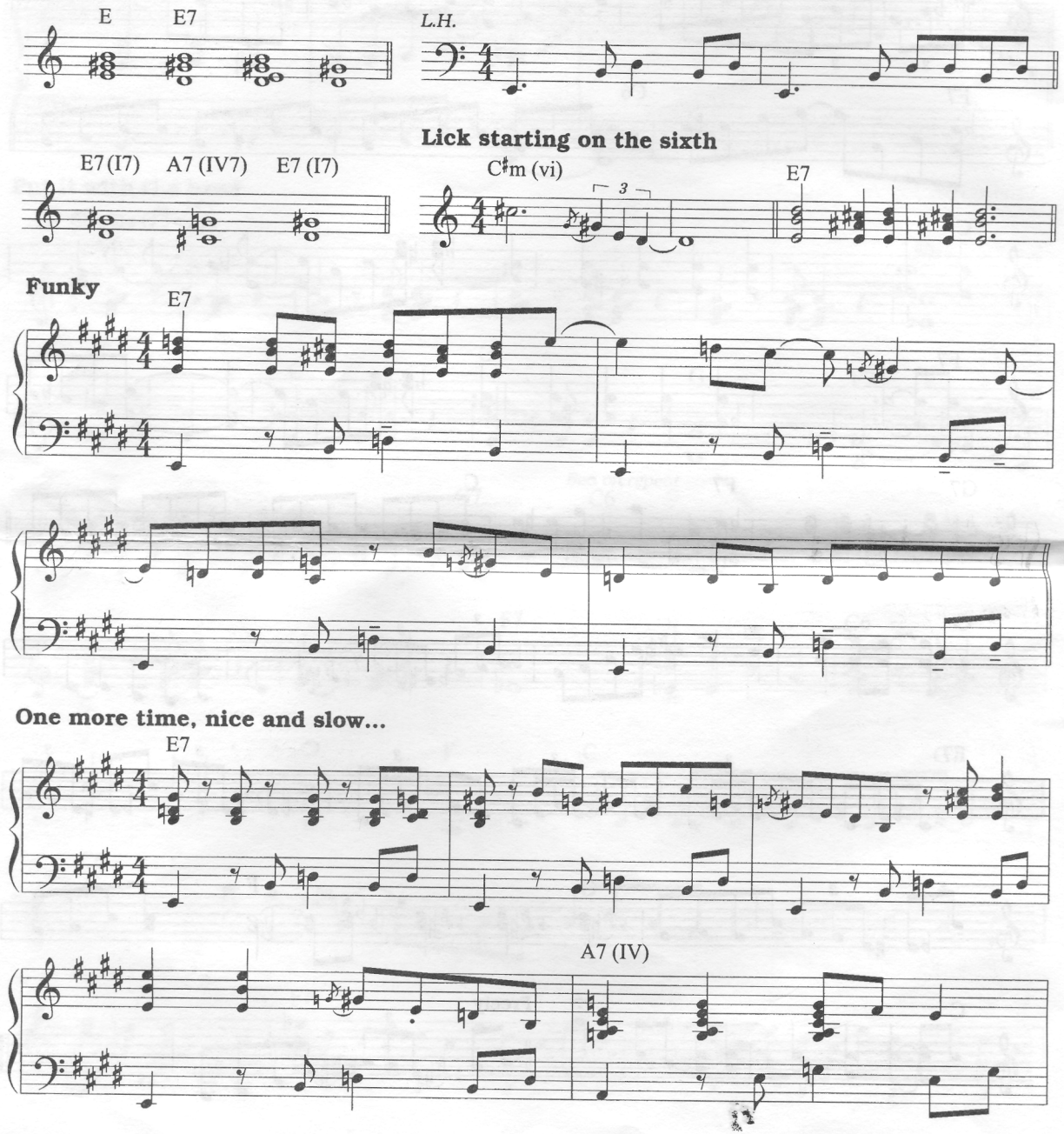


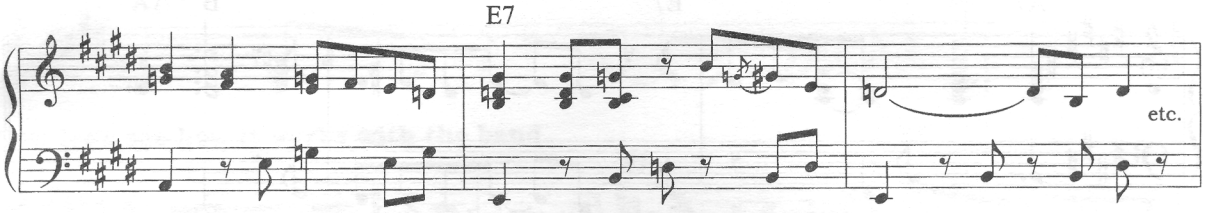

F7
C
G
F
C
C
F
C
G7
F


C
Freely
Put it with the band
Shuffle
C6
F7
C
G
F7
C
G7
8va on repeat
C6
F7
C6
G
F
C
G7
loco
C6
F7

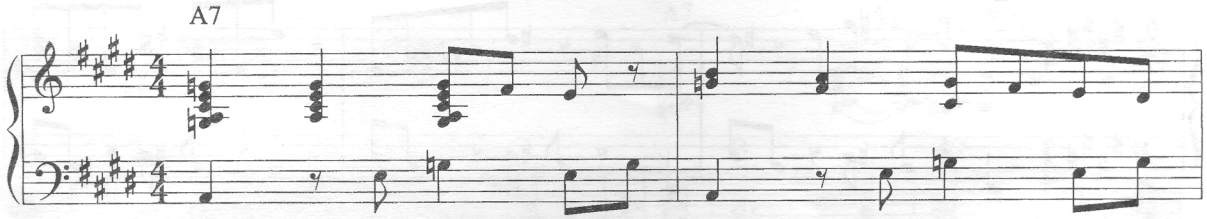

C7
G7
F7
C6
C
F7
C
G7
F7
C
C
F7
C
G
F
C
Freely

Funk in the Key of E

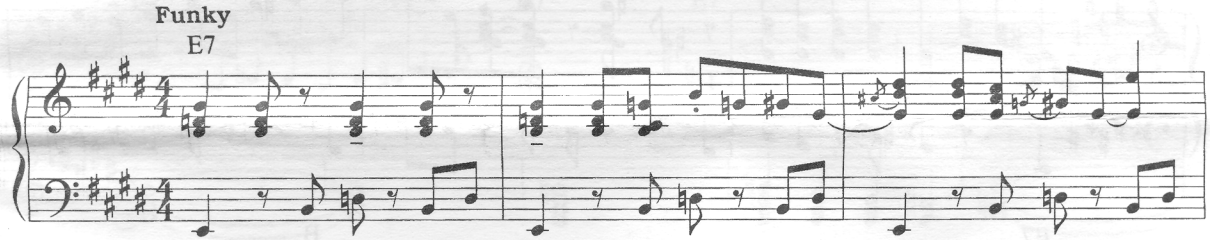


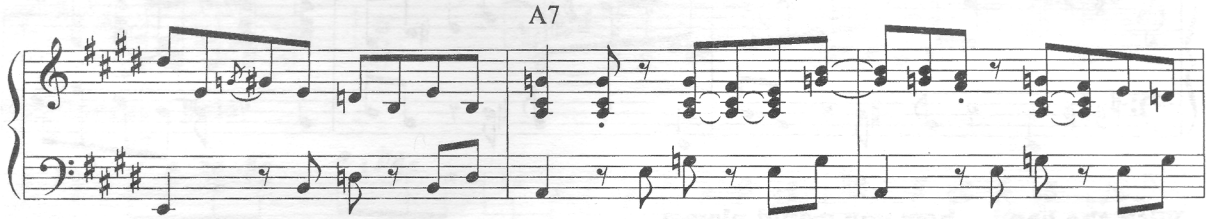


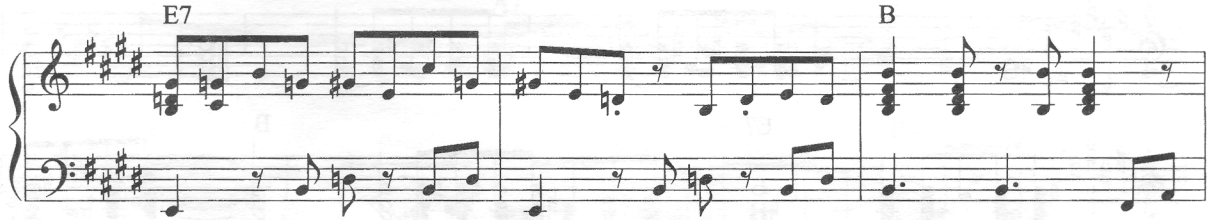
Variation for A7 chord

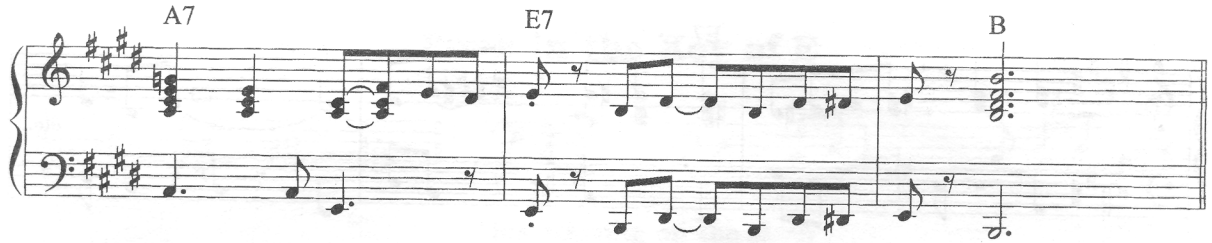


"Here's from the top" (variation)

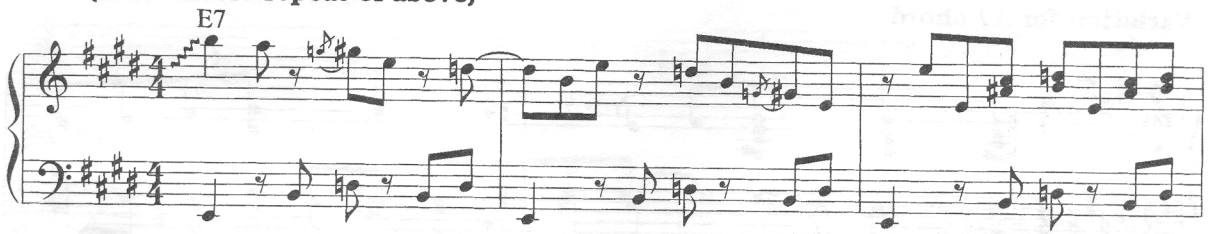


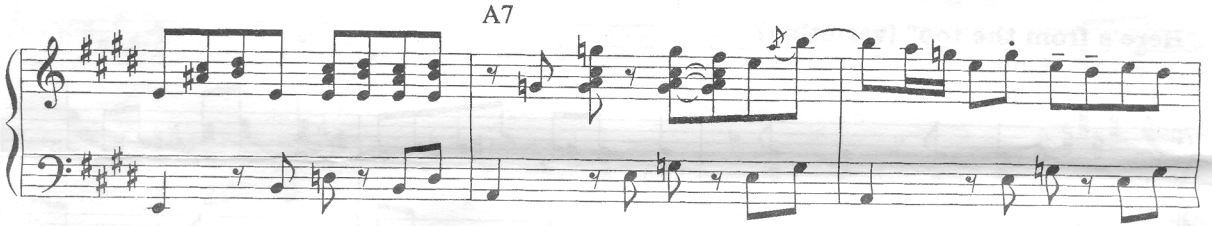


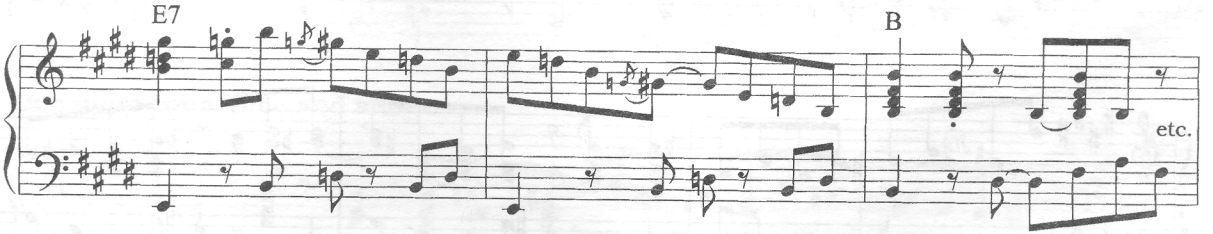




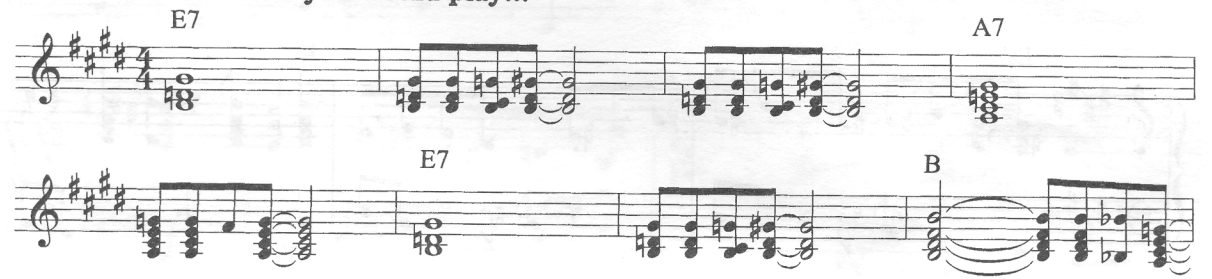
Solo (after slower repeat of above)

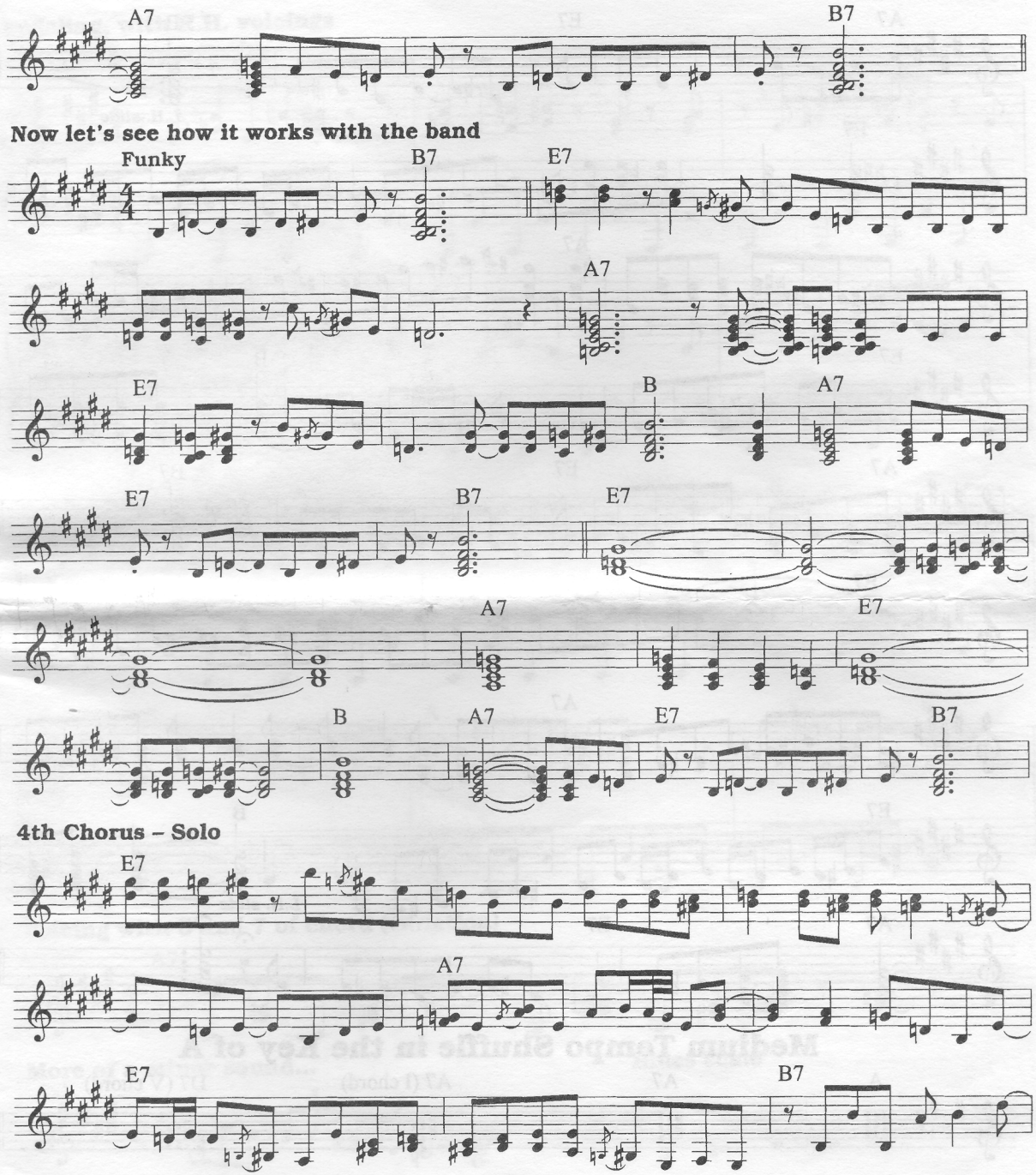


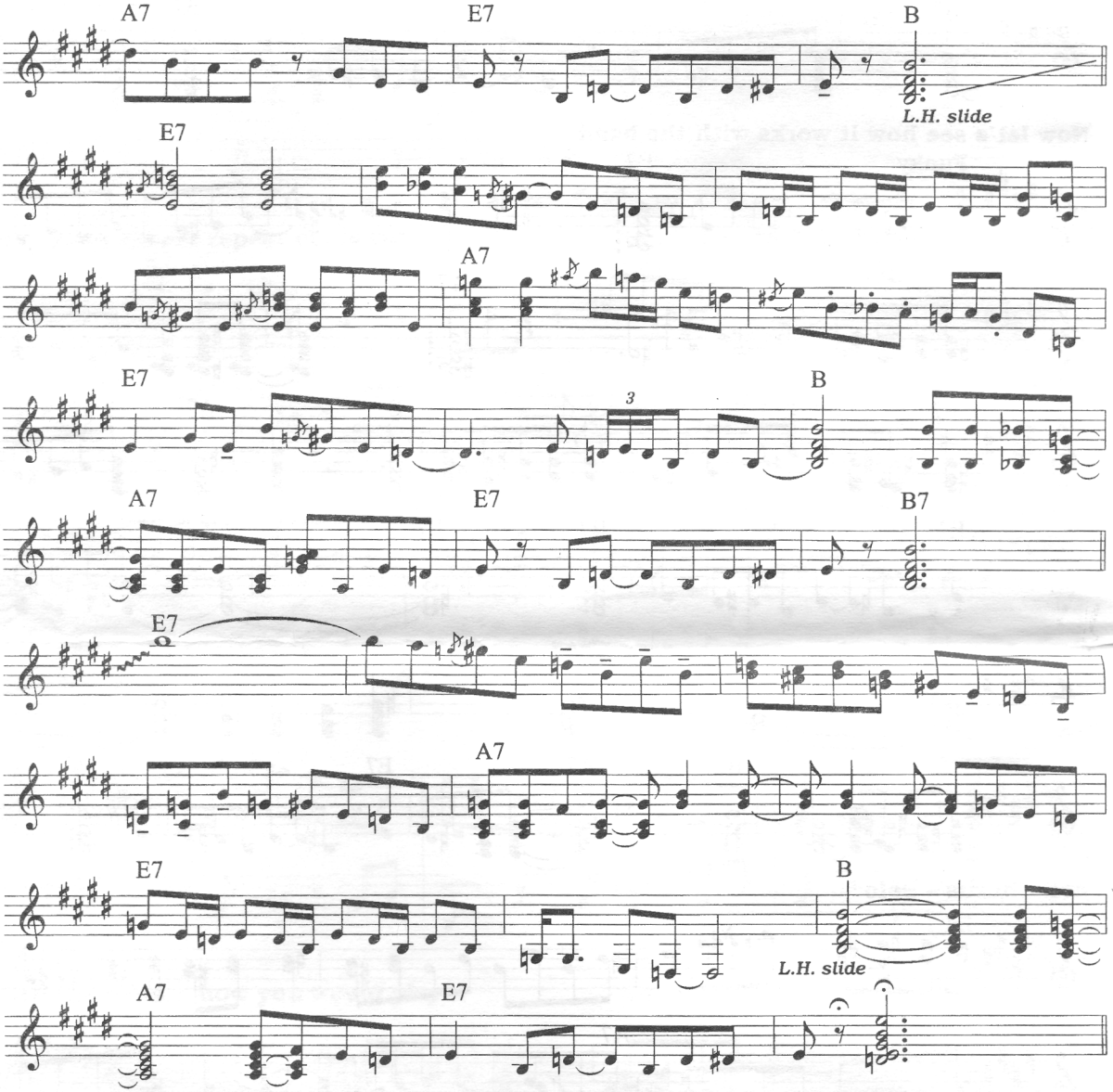




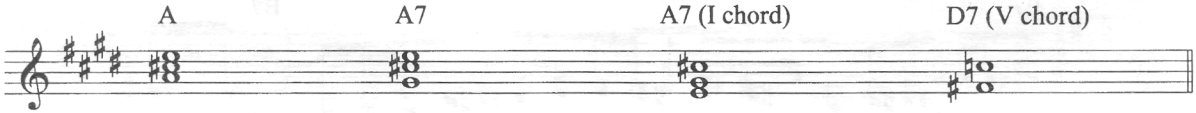
With the band... how you would play...




A7
B7
Now let's see how it works with the band
Funky
B7
E7
A7
E7
B
A7
E7
B7
E7
A7
E7
B
A7
E7
B7
4th Chorus – Solo
E7
A7
E7
B7



Medium Tempo Shuffle in the Key of A



Pedaling, with R.H. voicings

Shuffle (♫ = ♩♪)

A7

D7

A7

E

D7

A

E

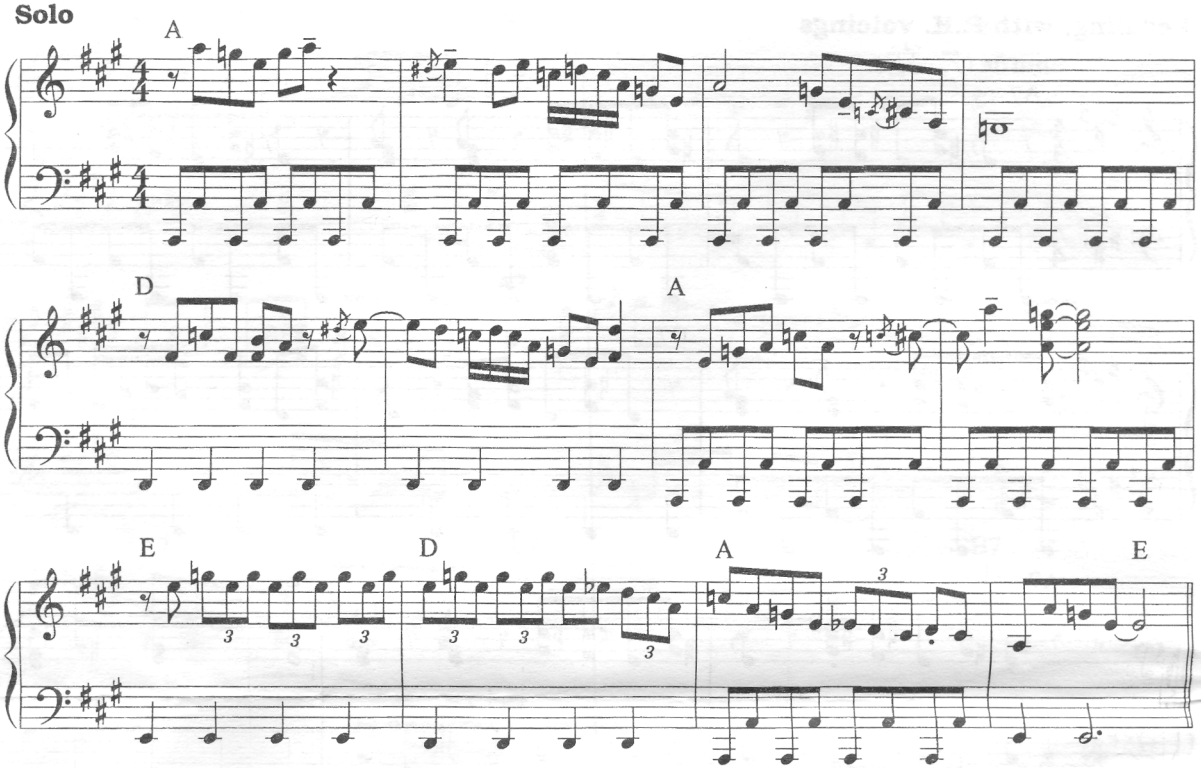
Voicing with 5 and 7 of chord (variation)

A7

More of a minor sound...

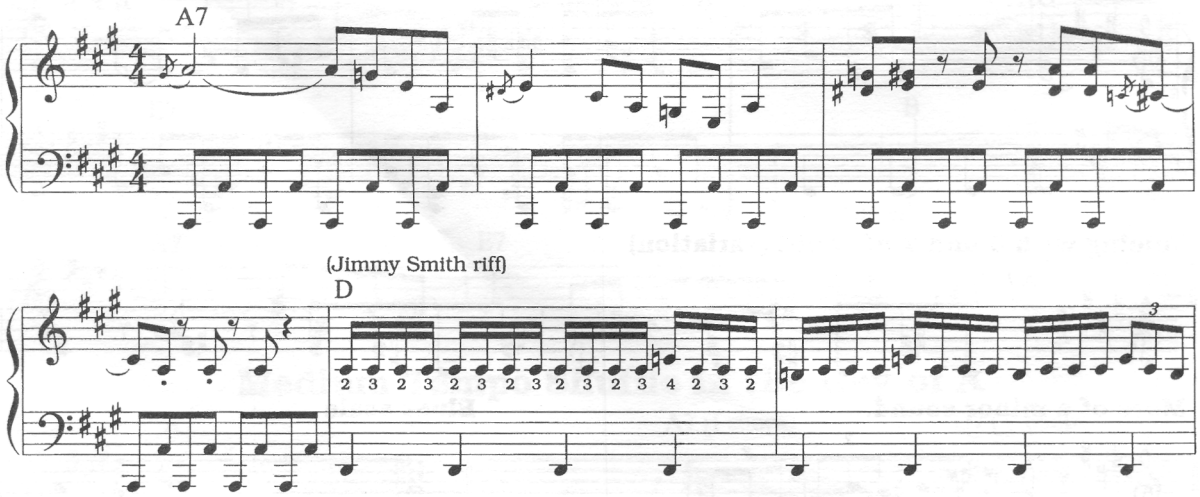
Blues scale

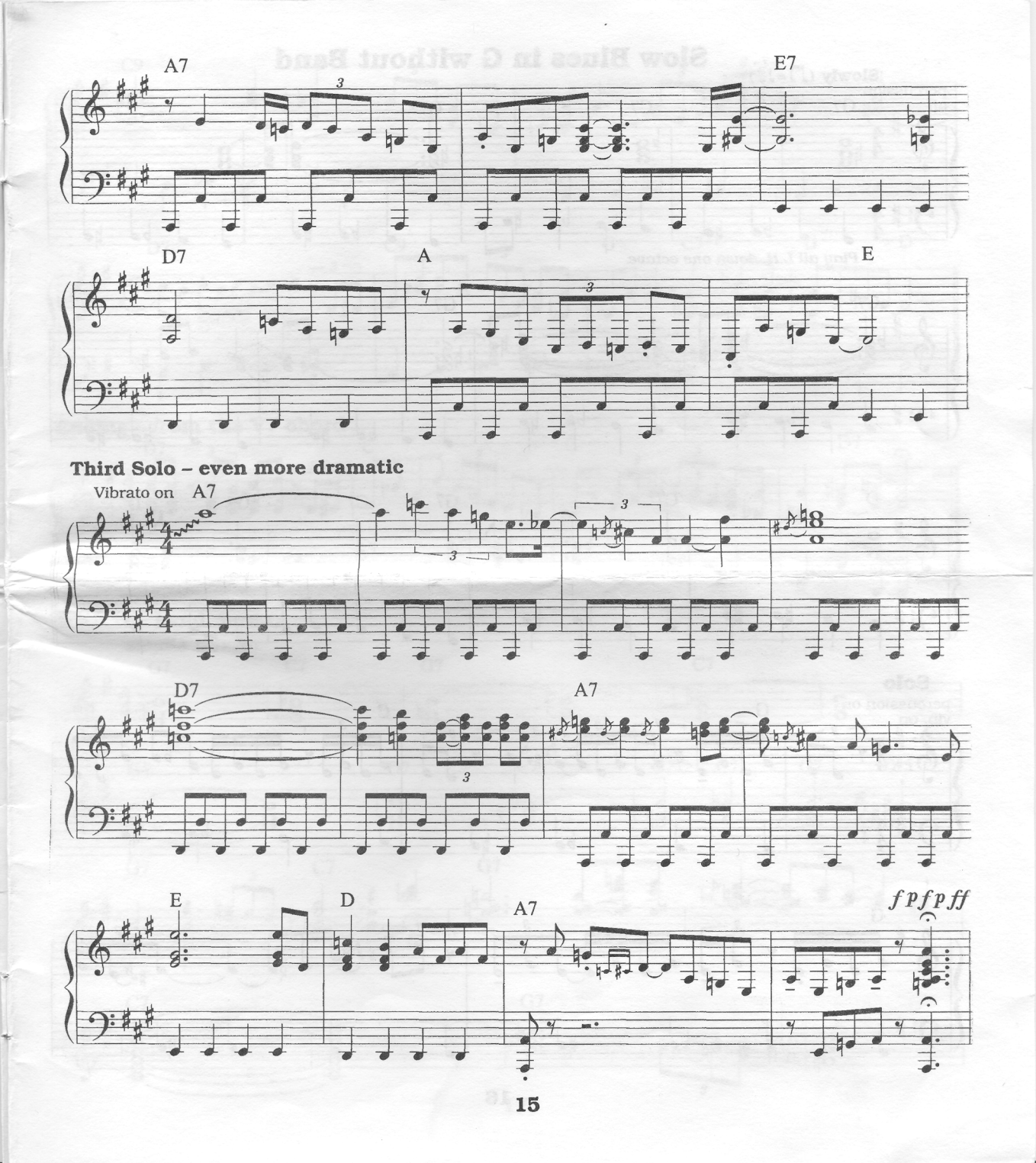
Solo



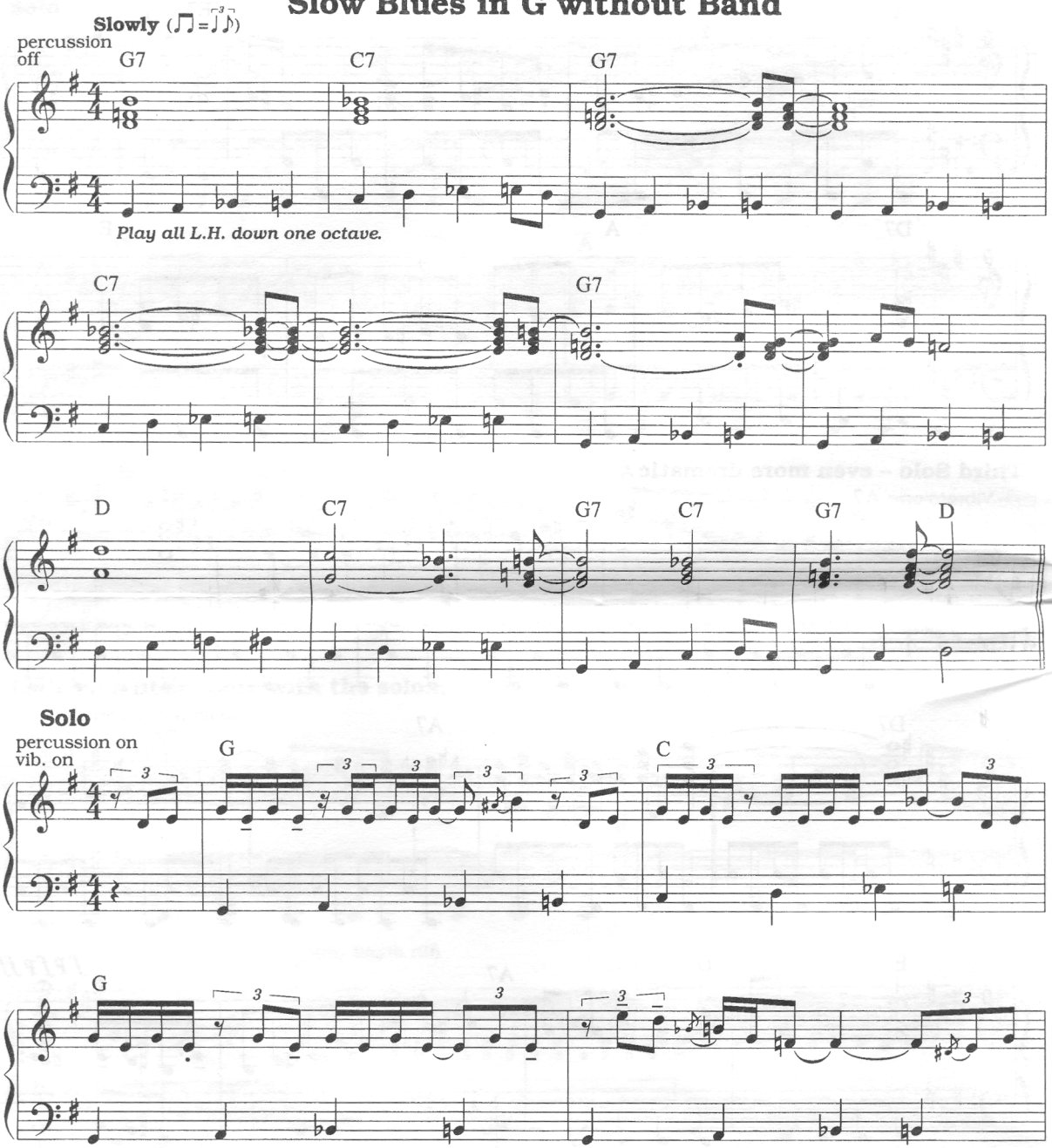
Let's do a little more with the solo...

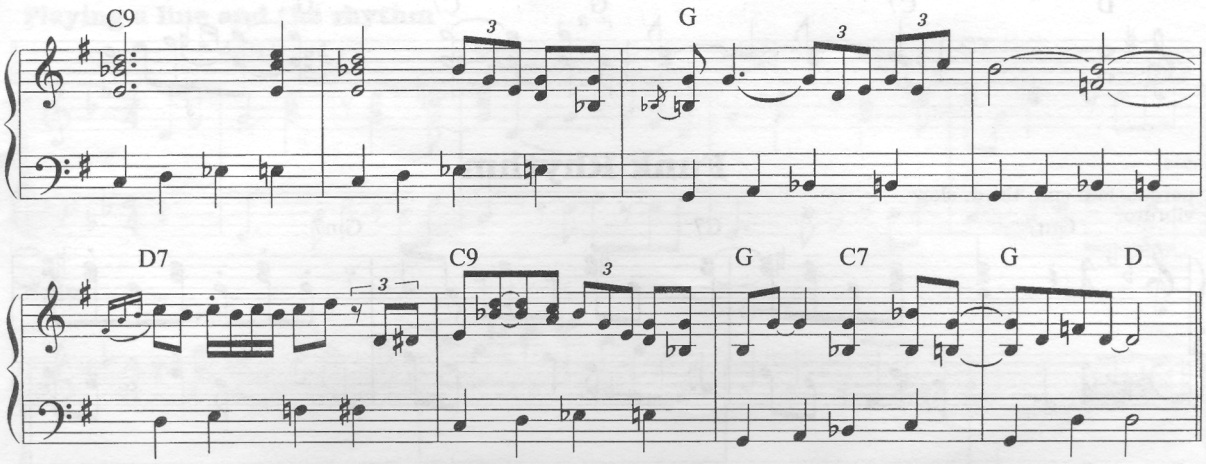
w/tremolo switch on



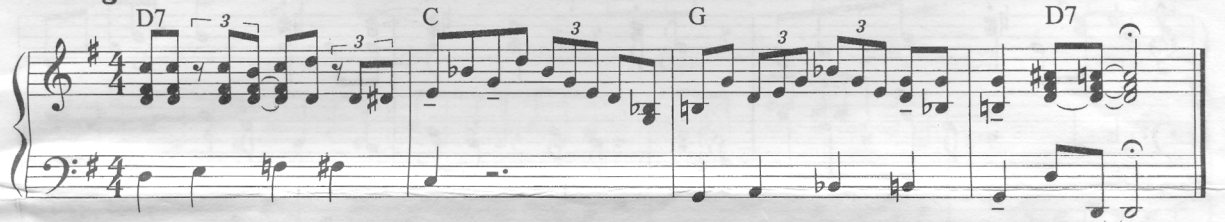

A7
E7
D7
A
E
Third Solo – even more dramatic
Vibrato on A7
D7
A7
E
D
A7
fpfpff

Slow Blues in G without Band



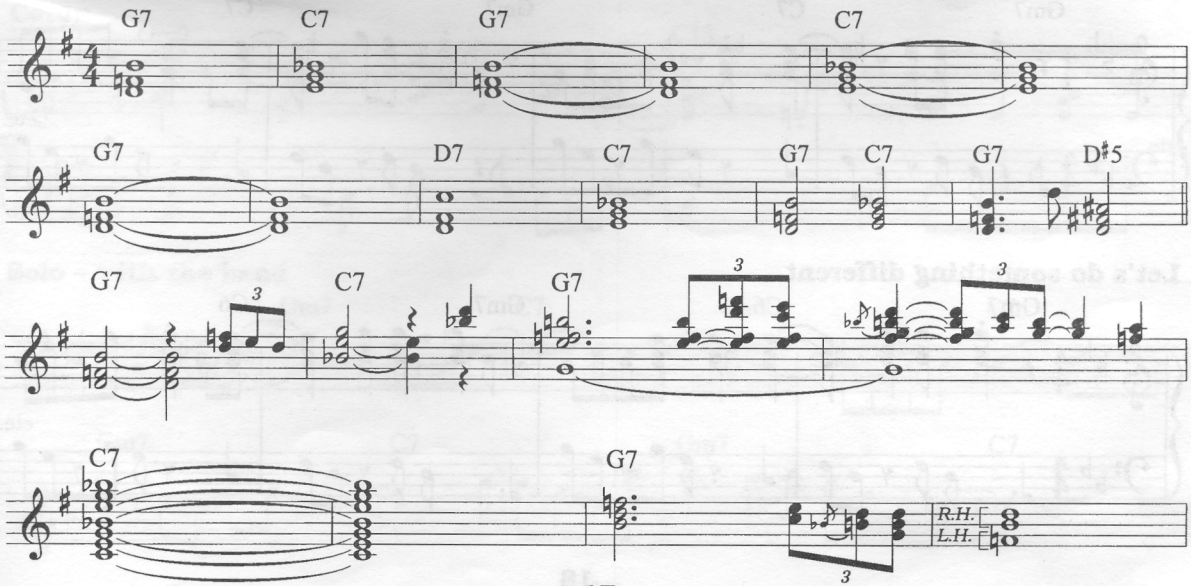


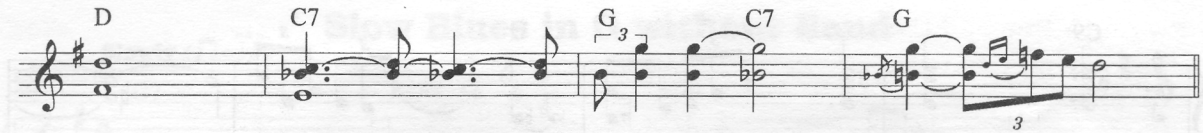
Ending – from the V7 chord



With the band, now...

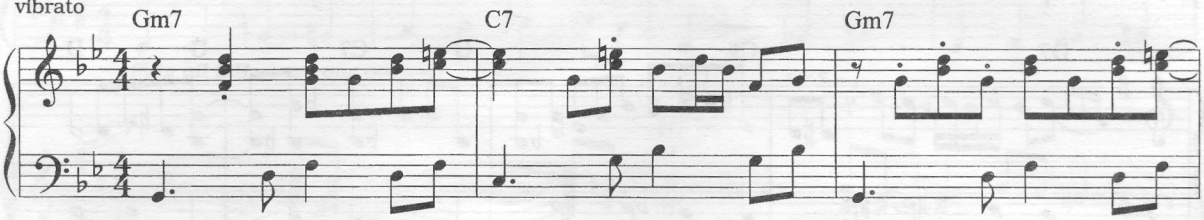
Shuffle (♫ = ♩♪)

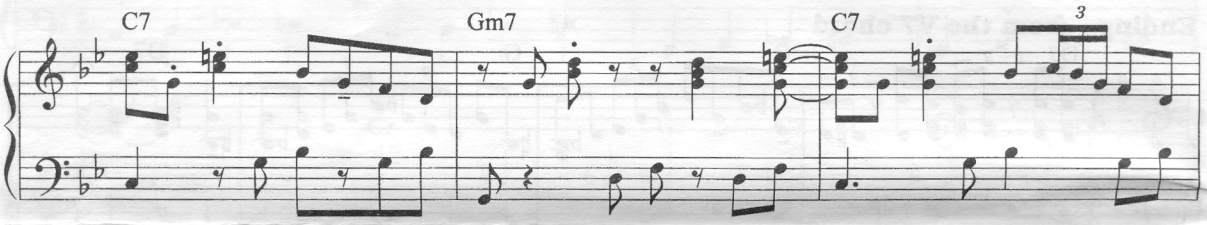




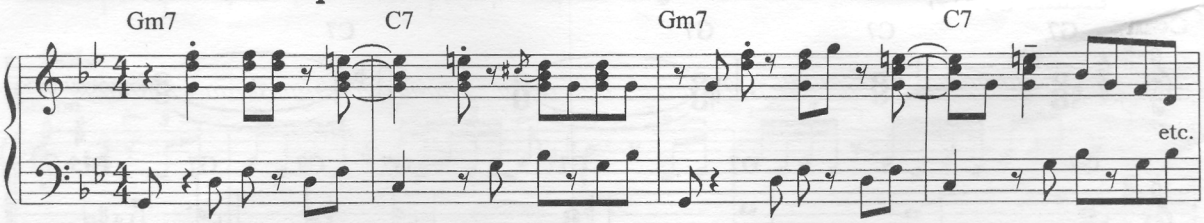
Funk Rhythm

percussion: soft, third, slow vibrato

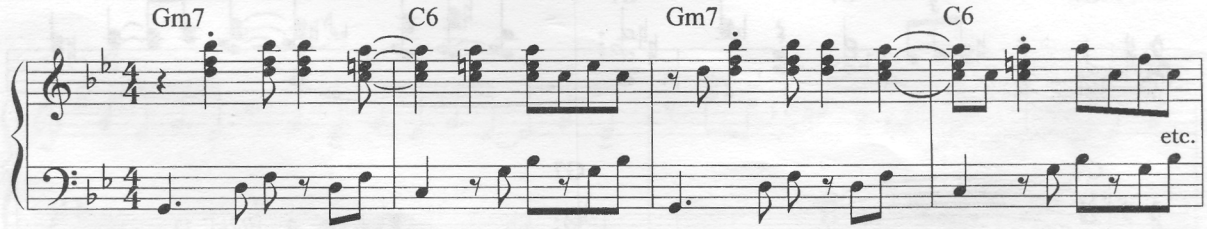




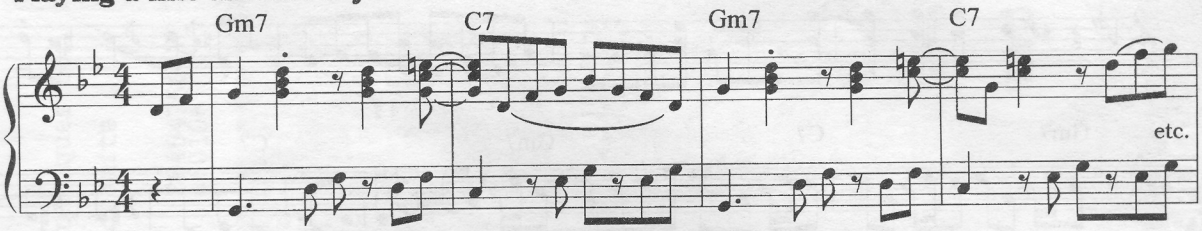
Variation with 7 on top



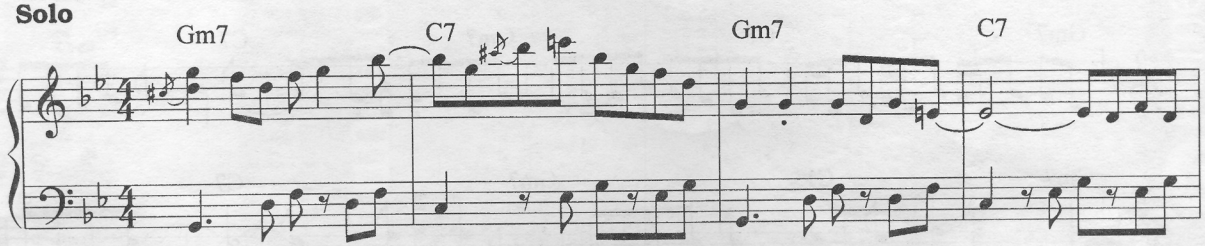
Let's do something different

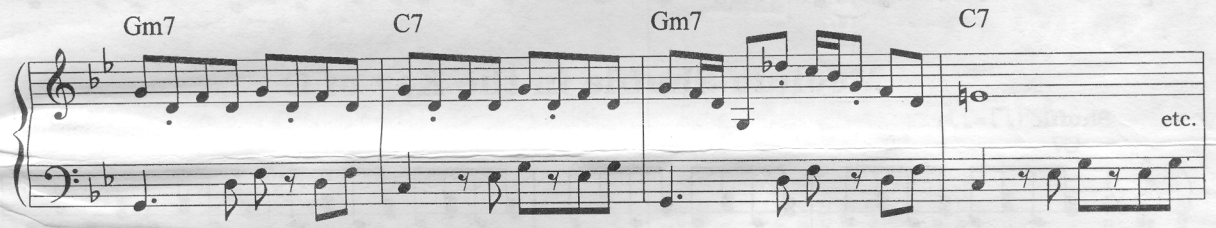


Playing a line and the rhythm

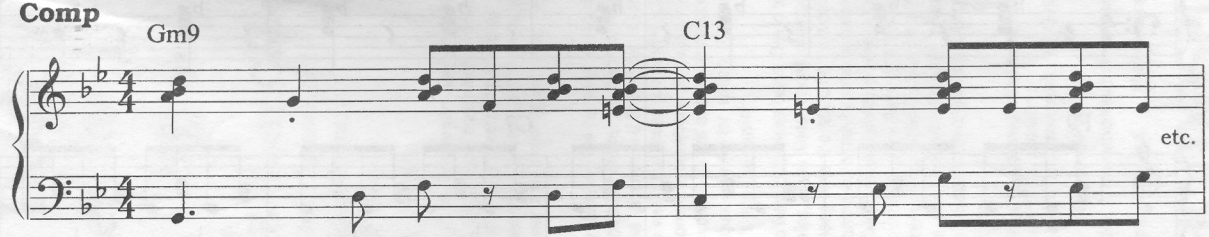


Solo

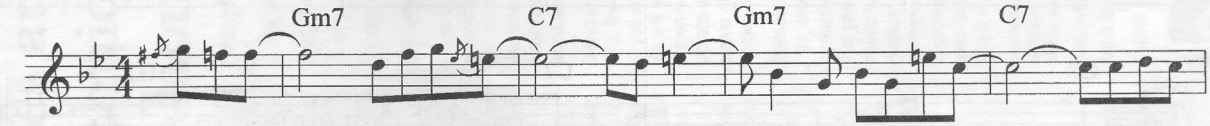


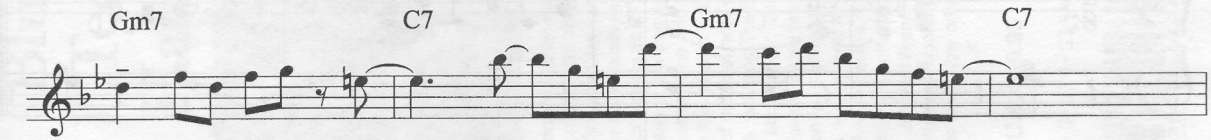


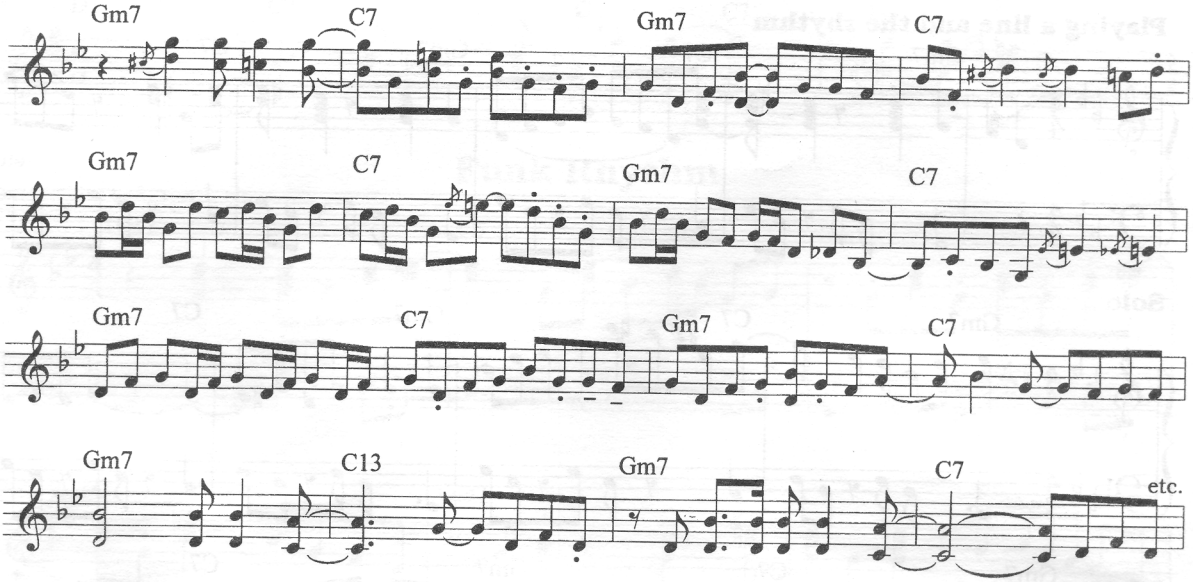
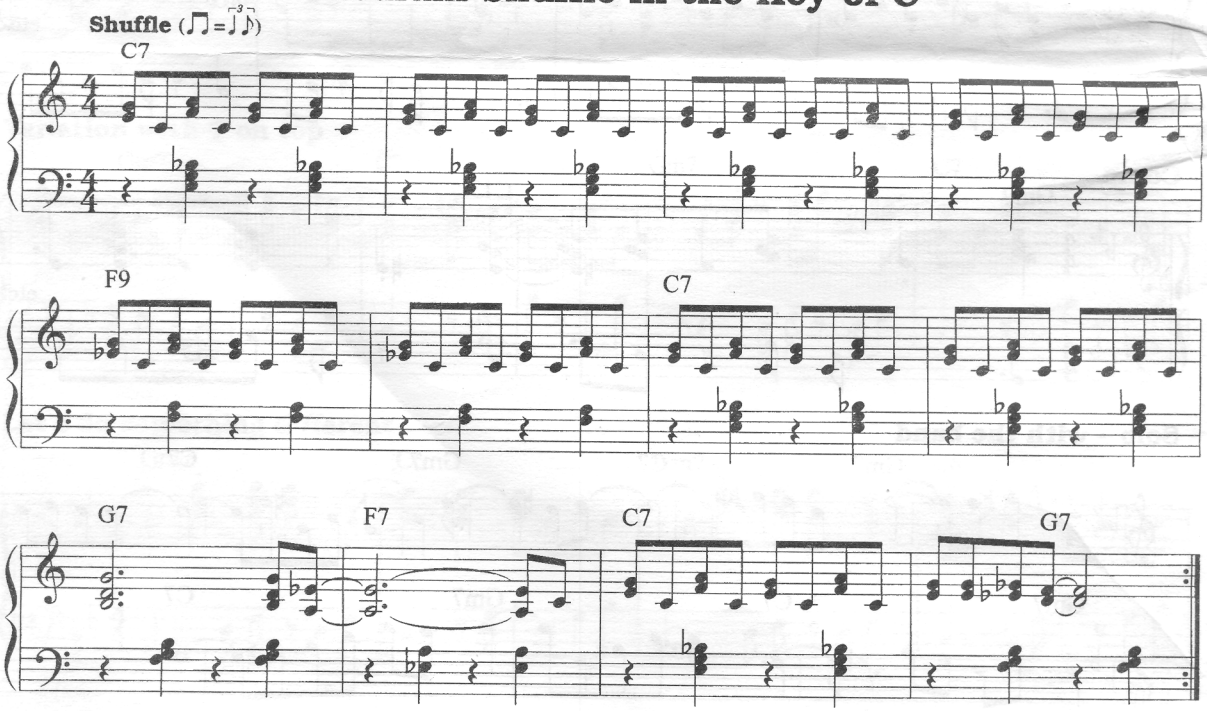
Comp



Solo – with the band







Medium Shuffle in the Key of C